

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
VILLAGE OF STEGER, WILL & COOK  
COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

The Board of Trustees convened in regular session at 7:00 P.M. on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger and via Teleconference that was made available to all residents. Mayor Peterson led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Village Clerk Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. called the roll. The following Trustees were present, Joyce, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton and Mayor Peterson. Trustee Perchinski joined via ZOOM at 7:19 P.M.

Also present: Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen and Fire Chief Nowell Fillion were present. Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, Police Chief Kevin Shaughnessy and EMA Chief Tom Johnston were present via ZOOM.

**AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

The appointment of Part Time Officer Gino Fimbianti has been postponed to the first meeting in February.

**MINUTES**

Trustee Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 21st meeting as written. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

**Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen** The Village will start using Positive Pay. The final training has taken place so we will have ACH Positive Pay and all payables will go through Positive Pay. The program is going to be a big help with payables. Also, I am working on project updates and hope to have that out to the Trustees soon. ComEd has pulled permits to move utility poles that have been holding up the Citgo Project, so hopefully that will move forward soon. Work on streetlights should start up in the Spring as communication is good and continues with ComEd.

**Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper** No Report.

**Fire Chief Nowell Fillion** No Report, but handed out a letter to all board members regarding Fire Department needs that would be met through the upcoming Referendum to be discussed later in the meeting.

**Police Chief Kevin Shaughnessy** Offered comments in regards to the Police Reform Legislation the recently passed in Springfield. The Village will be affected as it speaks to regulating the conduct and performance of our officers in performing their duty. The legislation is nearly 700 pages, so it is still being reviewed. It includes a lot of requirements and restrictions. It will require the Village of Steger to have body cameras on all officers by January of 2025. There is no funding in this Bill to aid with this expense. Part of the Bill includes the saving and storing of the video produced by these body cameras. This is a very expensive process. Also, part of this bill is the elimination of Cash Bond. This will be a challenge moving forward. We are still learning how this will affect our ability to get arrestees to appear in court. There are many aspects of this Bill that still need to be deciphered. Mayor Peterson added that there are a lot of unfunded mandates included in this bill that will have an affect on our Village. Mayor Peterson urges everyone to reach out to our local legislators and let them know how we feel about the negative impact this stands to have on our Village. Trustee Buxton stated that he had reached out to Thaddeus Jones to express his concerns with the financial impact this will have on our Village. Chief Shaughnessy assured the board that in discussion with his officers, we have dedicated individuals that will come to work and continue to do their job to the best of their ability. They understand the ramifications of the legislation and desire to improve what they do.

**EMA Chief Tom Johnston** Added that there is also word of legislation coming down limiting police officer presence on school grounds that came to our attention today. In the Emergency Management world we cannot express how much that will be detrimental. They are the first line of defense for schools right now, and if you take that away you are leaving certain schools defenseless without having resource officers present.

**Village Attorney** We are reviewing the legislation that was passed. The bill is in excess of 600 pages. We will provide a memorandum to you at no cost to the Village. There will probably be further permutations to the bill as time goes on.

**Treasurer** Nothing tonight, but after I review the Financial Report that is coming, I will report at next meeting.

### **TRUSTEES' REPORTS**

**Trustee Buxton** No Report.

**Trustee Skrezyna** No report.

**Trustee Lopez** No Report

**Trustee Kozy** No report.

**Trustee Perchinski** No report.

**Trustee Joyce** No Report.

**VILLAGE CLERK** I have a Thank You note thanking the Mayor, Board and Staff for flowers sent on behalf of the Dennis Banicki Family. Our presence and support meant a great deal to Officer Banicki's family.

**MAYORS REPORT** No Report

**BILLS**

Trustee Skrezyna made a motion to approve the bills listed. Trustee Buxton seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve ORDINANCE No. 1254: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 82, SECTION 82-486 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS REGARDING PARKING FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

**Referendum Question:**

Mayor Peterson started by stating that the purpose of this ordinance is to go to referendum to allow our residents to decide whether or not they would support an increase to our real estate taxes for the Village to provide \$600,000 in order to add personnel to our Fire Department. I will allow Fire Chief Fillion to explain the need.

Chief Fillion explained that currently during a 24-hour period we have one Paramedic and one EMT, both firefighter certified. It is becoming increasingly difficult to answer all the calls that we run. This past year we ran over 1800 calls which seems to go up about 100 calls per year. It is getting harder to do that especially with the hospital being further away and the mutual aid calls that we are asked to assist with. The Chief explained that of the surrounding communities, Steger gets one of the highest amounts of calls. Other communities handling our volume of calls have two sets of personnel and some cases additional personnel. There are communities handling less calls than Steger with two sets of ambulance personnel. Volunteer assistance is getting harder and harder to find. This referendum would make it possible to add an additional Paramedic and EMT Firefighter around the clock which would allow us to operate two ambulances. This would aid in answering the calls here in the Village not to mention the mutual aid calls that we answer. Our goal is, if we get a second crew, to have one crew at the main Firehouse where it is now, and add the second to the Firehouse No. 2 behind the Police Station thus eliminating delays currently caused by trains, if the call is on the West side of town. We continue to search for grants to help with equipment that we have been very frugal with. Chief Fillion was very sincere in the need for this increase. He is available for any questions that should come up regarding this request. The funds being requested in addition to adding a second crew, would be able to raise the pay to a more livable wage. Trustee Lopez commended Chief Fillion and his Department for doing their part in controlling costs but also mentioned that we cannot sacrifice cost for safety when it comes to protecting our citizens.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve Resolution No.1151: RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE OF STEGER A BINDING REFERENDUM QUESTION OF WHETHER TO INCREASE THE LIMITING RATE FOR THE LEVY 2021 FOR THE PURPOSES OF FUNDING THE HIRING AND COMPENSATION OF ADDITIONAL FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO BE VOTED ON AT THE CONSOLIDATED ELECTION TO BE HELD ON APRIL 6, 2021 FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COUNTIES OF COOK AND WILL, STATE OF ILLINOIS. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Buxton made a motion to approve the engagement letter provided by BKD CPAs & Advisors. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski questioned a zoning issue in regards to a property on Cottage Grove and whether it could be expedited. The Village Attorney stated that it has to go before the Zoning Board which will happen before our next Village Board meeting and it can be ratified at that time.

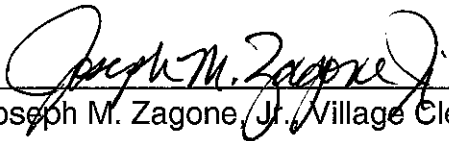
There being no further business,

Trustee Joyce made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.



Chairman Pro-Temp  
Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. Village Clerk